GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1053
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2016
Anaemic/Underweight Children
Patil Shri Chandrakant Raghunath

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of prevalence of anaemia among children and significant number of children below five years are underweight;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise including Gujarat; and

(c) whether the Government has ascertained the reasons for the prevalence of underweight and anaemic children?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a) & (b): Yes. Government is aware of prevalence of anaemia among children and that significant number of children below five years are underweight. As per National Family Health Survey-3, around 70 per cent of under-five children are anaemic and as per Rapid Survey of Children (2013), around 29 per cent children are underweight.

State/UT-wise details of prevalence of anaemia and underweight including Gujarat is annexed.

(c): The various reasons for high prevalence of underweight and anaemia in children are due to inadequate food, level of poverty leading to low purchasing power, poor socio-economic status of women, female illiteracy, high rate of population growth and low access of population to health education, unsafe drinking water and low level of sanitation and hygiene.